

Joseph M. Wade – W6YR
17372 Calgary Avenue
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

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To: Federal Communications Commission

Re: RM-10787

Dear FCC,

I advocate keeping the Morse code requirement as part of the testing procedures for ham radio licensing. There are many reasons for doing so and I would like to point out a few to you.

First of all CW is not a mode that is dying. In fact most hams today recognize that the best operators and most zealous of amateur radio operators spend most of their time in the CW sub-bands. Part of the reason for this is that becoming proficient in CW is something that we are proud of. Nobody is born with this skill. It has to be learned. And the process of learning shows that we have determination and drive. We see the benefit of learning this skill; a license to operate a ham radio station and a chance to communicate in a mode that uses our ears and our brains. If you ever look around you will find that most of those *no-code* license holders of the past 15 years are not active in ham radio. After 20 minutes of walkie-talkie communication they simply got bored. This is simply the opposite of hams who got their license by learning the code.

Amateur radio is supposed to advance technology by allowing us to experiment with new ideas in the area of radio and electronics. Getting new operators on CW allows them to build their own equipment at very little cost. For \$30 you can build a crystal controlled 40 or 20 meter transceiver. And with some training and desire, the new ham can understand how the circuit in that small rig is working. Not so with other rigs.

CW still gets through when other modes cannot. It is true that some digital modes are very good at pulling signals through that you can hardly hear. But CW has always been fabulous at getting through in poor conditions. And you only need simple equipment for CW. For digital modes, special equipment, including computers are needed. For a real world-wide emergency you are probably not going to have all the extra equipment or computers. CW will still get through, but only if you have the operators to do so.

Last but not least, the CW requirement makes ham radio a brotherhood. It is a bond that we all have and that bond is one of the main reasons that people wish to become involved with the hobby.

Ham Radio now has two tests that must be passed: (1) the written exams for which all the questions and answers are published in advance and (2) the code tests. People taking the exams are memorizing the test questions and answers leaving the only real test the CW test. I ask that you stop publishing the exam questions and answers in advance and keep the CW test for Advanced and lower at 5 wpm and reinstate the Extra CW test to 20 wpm.

Respectfully,

Joseph M. Wade – W6YR